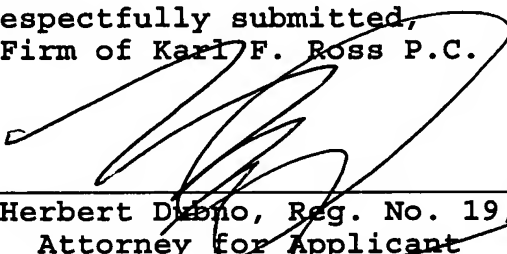


This preliminary amendment is submitted to eliminate multiple claim dependencies and to provide the cross reference of the present US phase of PCT/EP2002/012055 and the international application, according to Rule 78.

Respectfully submitted,
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